December 12, 2024, 5 pm online

Career Perspectives
with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences

Doctorate:

PharMetrX Program - Clinical Pharmacy, Department of Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Freie Universität Berlin, 2013

Current Position:

Head of Clinical Pharmacy and Deputy Medical Director at Havelland Kliniken

André Schäftlein

What are your responsibilities at work?

I work as a team leader in a hospital pharmacy and manage the deployment of ward pharmacists in all departments in the hospital. In addition as deputy medical director I am responsible for our 168 physicians and the contact person for all problems that go beyond the departmental boundaries of a chief physician. This mostly involves organizational and medical interface issues.

What was the biggest challenge in starting a new job after your PhD studies?

After my PhD I did a post doc at Saarland University for two years. When I applied for a position in the hospital sector I discovered that the prejudice against the "ivory tower" university was very large. The biggest problem from the recruiters' perspective was the lack of practical knowledge in everyday life.

What role do skills gained in your PhD studies play in your current job?

I did my PhD in clinical pharmacy at the Free University of Berlin through the graduate program "PharMetrX", in which an interprofessional exchange with e.g. mathematicians, physicians, (bio)informaticians and biologists is already built into the structure of the program. This exchange enabled me to look beyond my own specialist boundaries and now helps me to understand and resolve the different perspectives on a problem more quickly in everyday life. In addition, during my doctorate I worked on the topic of optimizing anti-infective therapy: knowledge that I can now apply in reality every day on the bedside of our patients.

What should a doctoral graduate who wants to join you bring to the table?

Fresh ideas and innovations as well as the latest knowledge about methods and organizational tools are very welcome in our company.

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